



AILO

All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad
The Problem Solvers' Challenge

Preliminary Round

January 2019

2 Hours

PROBLEM BOOK

***Answer as many of the questions as you can.
Write your answers in the answer books provided.***

Questions and credits

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|----|------------------------------------|--|-----------|
| A. | Cippus Abellanus | Sam Ahmad | 20 points |
| B. | Up the creek for firewood | Rebecca Dalfina | 20 points |
| C. | As easy as one, two, three (again) | Harold Somers, Gabrijela Hladnik, Mateja Hrast | 20 points |
| D. | Malteaser | Harold Somers | 20 points |
| E. | Do you speak Ndebele? | Michael Salter | 20 points |



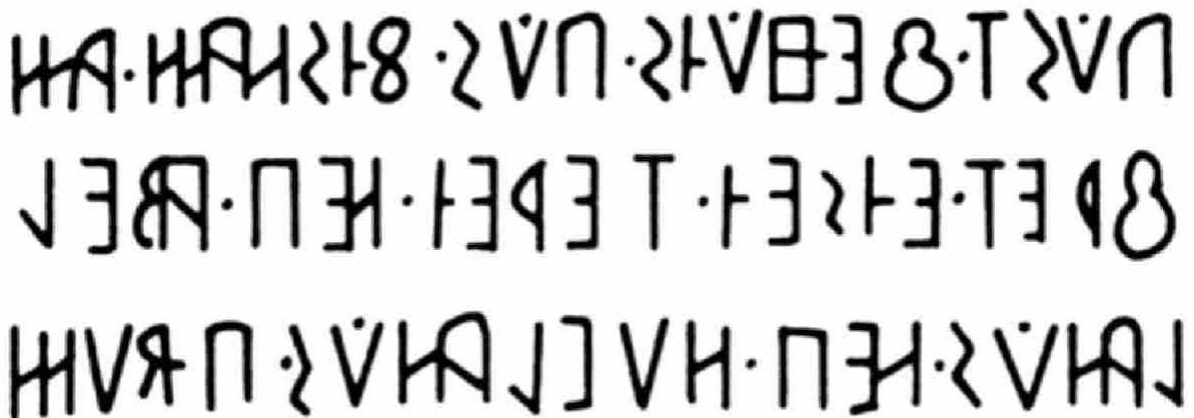
Engaging Content
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Question A: Cippus Abellanus

20 points

The Cippus Abellanus is a small pillar from the 2nd century BCE, carved with an inscription dealing with a legal dispute between the cities of Abella and Nola in (present-day) southern Italy. It represents one of the most important surviving 'documents' written in the ancient Oscan language, which is related to Latin. A portion of the Cippus Abellanus is shown below.



Below are sixteen words, transliterated, which appear in the Cippus Abellanus. Eight of them appear in the portion of the inscription shown, and eight do not.

eisei	fufans	feihúis	amfret
pússtis	tereí	svai	ehtrad
pidum	fisnam	pús	inim
púst	anter	prúftú	eisúd

A1. In your answer book, indicate (with a tick or cross) for each word whether it does or does not appear in the portion of the inscription shown.

A2. The English translation of this part of the inscription is as follows:

Behind the walls which go around the sanctuary, in this area neither the inhabitants of Abella nor the inhabitants of Nola [are permitted to build] anything.

Give in both Oscan script and transliteration, the Oscan words for

- (a) neither/nor
- (b) inhabitants of Abella (one word)
- (c) inhabitants of Nola (one word) (Hint: it contains the letter "c")

Question B: Up the creek for firewood 20 points

Below is a snippet of a story in both Pitjantjatjara and English. However, not all the sentences are translated into the other language. Your task is to fill those gaps.

<i>Unurupalu Winmaṭinya nyangu.</i>	Unurupa saw Winmaṭi.
<i>Unurupanya Winmaṭilu nyangu.</i>	(a)
<i>Unurupalu Winmaṭinya wangkangu “Ngali karukuṭu ananyi.”</i>	Unurupa said to Winmaṭi “The two of us are going to the creek.”
<i>Paluru wangkangu “Nyaaku ngali ananyi?”</i>	He said “Why are the two of us going?”
<i>Paluru wangkangu “Ngali punuku ananyi.”</i>	She said “The two of us are going for wood.”
(b)	Winmaṭi said “Okay, fine.”
<i>Umatjilu wangkangu “Yaaltjikuṭu nyupali ananyi?”</i>	Umatji said “Where are the two of you going?”
<i>Unurupalu wangkangu “Ngali karukuṭu punuku ananyi.”</i>	Unurupa said “The two of us are going to the creek for wood.”
<i>Umatjilu wangkangu “Wiru, ngayulu pitjanya?”</i>	Umatji said “Lovely, can I come?”
<i>Unurupalu munu Winmaṭilu palunya wangkangu “Uwa, palya.”</i>	Unurupa and Winmaṭi said to her “Okay, fine.”
<i>Tjana mutukakuṭu anu.</i>	They went to the car.
<i>Winmaṭi Unurupangka nyinangu.</i>	Winmaṭi sat on Unurupa
<i>Tjana Itjinpirilakuṭu anu.</i>	They went to Itjinpiri.
<i>Unurupa karungka nyinangu.</i>	Unurupa sat in the creek.
<i>Umatji munu Winmaṭi punuku anu.</i>	(c)
<i>Umatji Winmaṭiṅka paltjuṅu.</i>	Umatji stood on Winmaṭi.
<i>Winmaṭilu wangkangu “Nyuntu ngayungka paltjuṅu!”</i>	Winmaṭi said, “You stood on me!”
<i>Umatjilu palunya wangkangu “Ngayulu nyuntungka paltjuṅu!”</i>	(d)
<i>Umatji munu Winmaṭi Unurupalakuṭu anu.</i>	(e)
<i>Tjana karungka nyinangu.</i>	(f)
<i>Unurupalu wangkangu “Nganaṅa Pukatjalakuṭu ananyi.”</i>	Unurupa said “We’re going to Pukatja.”
<i>Tjana mutukangka tjarpanu.</i>	They got into the car.
<i>Pukatjangka, Wiṭurpalu wangkangu tjananya “Yaaltjinguru nyura pitjangu?”</i>	In Pukatja, Wiṭurpa said to them, “Where did you come from?”
(g)	Umatji said “We came from the creek.”
<i>Wiṭurpalu wangkangu “Nyaanguru Winmaṭi ulanyi?”</i>	Wiṭurpa said “Why is Winmaṭi crying?”
(h)	Unurupa said “Umatji stood on him.”
<i>Wiṭurpalu wangkangu “Ngaltutjara.”</i>	Wiṭurpa said “Poor thing.”
<i>Paluru wangkangu “Nyaaku nyura Itjinpirilakuṭu anu?”</i>	(i)
(j)	Umatji said “We went to get firewood.”
<i>Wiṭurpalu wangkangu “Yaaltjingka punu?”</i>	(k)
<i>Umatjilu wangkangu “Nganaṅa punu wiya.”</i>	Umatji said “We don’t have any firewood.”

Pitjantjatjara is an Australian Aboriginal language spoken in the desert in Central Australia, southwest of Uluru (Ayers Rock). It has about 3,000 speakers. Underlining indicates that the sound is pronounced with the tongue tip curled back.

Question C: As easy as one, two, three (again)

20 points

Study the table of Slovene word forms, and fill in the gaps.

	English	one eg one basket	two eg two baskets	three eg three baskets	no -s eg no baskets	no (sg) eg no basket
1	basket				brez koškov	nobenega koška
2	bell	en zvonec			brez zvoncev	
3	boy	en deček	dva dečka			
4	cat	ena mačka	dve mački	tri mačke	brez mačk	nobene mačke
5	cow	ena krava	dve kravi			
6	end	en konec		trije konci		
7	eyeball			tri zrkla	brez zrkel	
8	horse		dva konja	trije konji	brez konjev	
9	kitchen			tri kuhinje	brez kuhinj	
10	letter		dve pismi	tri pisma		
11	mill	en mlin				
12	mole	en krt		trije krti		nobenega krta
13	oar	eno veslo				
14	rabbit	en zajec	dva zajca	trije zajci	brez zajcev	nobenega zajca
15	ship					nobene barke
16	sound		dva zvoka			
17	window	eno okno	dve okni	tri okna	brez oken	nobenega okna

Pronunciation guide:

č is pronounced like 'ch' in 'church' (IPA [tʃ])

c is pronounced like 'ts' in 'bits'

j is pronounced like 'y' in 'yes' (IPA [j]) but like an 'i' before a consonant

š is pronounced like 'sh' in 'ship' (IPA [ʃ])

nj can be considered a single sound, like in 'onion' (IPA [ɲ])

r is rolled, and can function as a 'vowel' (like in English 'brrrrr')

h is pronounced like 'ch' in 'Bach' (IPA [x])

Slovene (or Slovenian) belongs to the group of South Slavic languages. It is spoken by approximately 2.5 million speakers worldwide, the majority of whom live in Slovenia. It is the first language of about 2.1 million Slovenian people and is one of the 24 official and working languages of the European Union.

The "again" in the title of this problem refers to the fact that we had a problem last year with this title, though the two problems are unrelated.

Question D: Malteaser

20 points

Study the following Maltese nouns, which are given together with the definite article (meaning 'the'). The English translations are given for your information, but are not relevant to the problem.

il bar	(bar)	l hemm	(grief)	li bdiewa	(peasants)
il ktieb (*)	(book)	is sħana	(heat)	li mħadda	(pillow)
il ġobon (*)	(cheese)	id dar	(house)	il qassis	(priest)
iċ ċirasa	(cherry)	iż żir	(jug)	il ward	(roses)
li ksieħ	(cold)	ir raġel	(man)	is silġ	(snow)
l jum	(day)	iċ ċpar	(mist)	ix xemx	(sun)
li ħmar	(donkey)	l għonq	(neck)	il vjola	(violet)
l art	(earth)	l ufficċju	(office)	il mara	(woman)
il lvant	(east)	il langas	(pear)		

Pronunciation guide: ċ = 'ch' as in 'church' (IPA [tʃ])

ġ is like English 'j' in 'judge' (IPA [dʒ])

h is like in English except at the beginning of a word, when it is silent

ħ is a sound made at the back of the throat, like the 'ch' in German, but much further back, a voiceless pharyngeal fricative (IPA [ħ]). But the sequence 'gh', which is treated as a separate letter, is silent.

j is like 'y' in 'yes' (IPA [j])

q is a glottal stop, the sound in the middle of 'uh-oh' (IPA [ʔ])

x = 'sh' as in 'shoe' (IPA [ʃ])

z = 'ts' as in 'bits'

ż = z as in 'zoo'

All other letters have their expected values

D1. In your answer book, give the appropriate form of the definite article for the following nouns:

lura (back), qamar (moon), ors (bear), nar (fire), xahar (mouth), demm (blood), hena (happiness), mniħer (nose), nifs (breath), ras (head), forn (oven), geddum (chin), tama (hope), patata (potato), bliet (cities), ħadid (iron), bejt (roof), kafè (coffee), ġżira (island), xkora (sack), dlam (darkness), ilsna (language), żarbun (shoe), għajn (eye), beraq (lightning), azzar (steel), wiċċ (face), suq (market), zokor (sugar), missier (father), ilma (water)

D2. The two words marked (*) don't seem to fit the rules. What would you expect the form of the definite article to be in these two cases?

D3. (Bonus marks) Briefly summarise the rules for the Maltese definite article seen in these examples (excluding the two examples marked *).

Maltese is a Semitic language, arguably a dialect of Arabic, and is the national language of Malta, where it is spoken by about 560,000 people. Along with English it is an official language in Malta, and is also one of the European Union's official languages.

Question E: Do you speak Ndebele? 20 points

Below are some phrases from the Ndebele language, along with their English translations.

<i>Ufuna ukunatha itiyena?</i>	Do you want to drink tea?
<i>Yebo, ngiyafuna.</i>	Yes, I do (want to).
<i>Sifuna ukuhamba.</i>	We want to go.
<i>Umfana uyapheka.</i>	The boy is cooking.
<i>Ngifunda ukupheka angithi?</i>	I am learning to cook, aren't I?
<i>Abafana bayahamba.</i>	The boys are going.
<i>Abangane bayahamba na?</i>	Are the friends going?
<i>Umgane uyahamba angithi?</i>	The friend is going, isn't he?
<i>Abafana banatha itiyena?</i>	Are the boys drinking tea?
<i>Umgane uyanatha.</i>	The friend is drinking.
<i>Banjani abantwana?</i>	How are the children?
<i>Uthunga njani?</i>	How do you sew?
<i>Ufuna ukufunda angithi?</i>	He wants to learn, doesn't he?
<i>Yebo, uyafuna.</i>	Yes, he does (want to).
<i>Bangaphi abafana?</i>	Where are the boys?
<i>Ubaba ubona umfana.</i>	Father sees the boy.
<i>Ngifunda ukukhuluma indebele ngaphi?</i>	Where do I learn to speak Ndebele?

E1. Translate the following sentences into English:

- (a) *Yebo, bafuna ukubona.*
- (b) *Umfana ufunda ukuthunga njani?*
- (c) *Singaphi?*
- (d) *Ngipheka itiyena.*

E2. Translate the following sentences into Ndebele:

- (a) How is the child?
- (b) We are learning to cook, aren't we?
- (c) Yes, they are speaking.
- (d) Do they want to see the father?

E3. The following sentence has two possible translations. Give them both, and explain why it is ambiguous.

Ukhuluma indebele angithi?

E4. (Bonus marks) Briefly summarise the rules of Ndebele grammar seen in these examples.

Ndebele is a Bantu language spoken by 12 million people in southern Africa (mainly Zimbabwe).

END OF PAPER